



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

May 4, 2012

Ms. Connie Latham
Special Assistant to the County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Ms. Latham,

As requested by the Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB) via memorandum dated March 19, 2012, the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board hereby submits our report that outlines reasons why the advisory board should continue. The six areas of inquiry provided by CERB and the UCAB's responses are provided below.

1. A description of the work the advisory board does, citing the enabling legislation, the membership makeup of the board, and the subcommittee structure (if any).

The work of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board encompasses review and comment within statutory requirements and guidelines of: proposed zoning amendments and sectional map amendments; master plans and related plan amendments; the six-year capital improvements program (CIP) of County and Bi-County agencies; operating budgets of County and Bi-County agencies; health and human service matters; land acquisition by County and other government agencies; the location and design of fire stations, schools, recreation centers, libraries, and other government buildings and facilities; transportation routes, schedules and services within the County, including School busing; and all other matters coming before the County government for decision which relate to, or affect, the Upcounty Regional Service Center's service area. We also advise the Upcounty Regional Services Director in identifying demographic, economic, and social patterns and emerging issues in the area.

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board was officially established on February 7, 1984 by Council Resolution 10-573 with the membership appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. The Board was to be large enough so that it could be divided into subcommittees as necessary and so that it would be constituted as to reflect the varying points of view of the large northern part of the county, but not be an advocate for a majority position.

The membership of the UCAB consists of 20 members representing a cross-section of citizens living or working in the Upcounty region, such as in Germantown, Gaithersburg, Boyds, Laytonsville, Damascus, Poolesville, Clarksburg, Montgomery Village and North Potomac. In making appointments, the County Executive considers the following: diversity of background and professions; relevant experience and expertise; and geographic, gender, age and ethnic balance.

The term of appointment for members is three years. A member may request appointment to a second term. Attendance at regular meetings is essential. A member who is absent from 25 percent or more of scheduled official full Board meetings during any six-month period is considered to have resigned from the Board.

The officers of the Board include a Chair, a First Vice-Chair, and a second Vice-Chair. The annual election of offices takes place in May. A nominating committee appointed by the chair in March presents nominations in April. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the April and May meetings. The terms of office are one year with a two year limitation on consecutive terms for the same office. Officers serve at the pleasure of the Board and may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the entire Board.

The UCAB structure includes three permanent standing subcommittees. Each Board member is an active member of at least one subcommittee. Each sub-committee meets, on average, 7 times per year. The standing committees include; Land Use and Preservation, Quality of Life, and the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, composed of the three chair officers and chairs of the Land Use and Preservation, and Quality of Life subcommittees plan the strategic work of the Board. When required, the Chair may also form temporary nomination and/or member candidate interview committees to conduct official business.

2. Justification why the advisory board should continue. This may include a general statement concerning why the advisory board was established, and why its efforts are still needed.

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board has played an important role in an effective decision making process for county government and will continue that role in the future. Consider the following supporting facts:

- Boards and committees, such as the UCAB, provide a cost effective public forum for the County to disseminate information about its programs, services, and policies and to gather public opinion about county programs, services and policies.
- The UCAB allows county staff to engage the broader community at the grass-roots level on important issues.
- The UCAB studies critical issues, takes public testimony, performs independent research, and reviews staff reports and recommendations. These activities prepare the UCAB to discuss, analyze, formulate, and forward well-developed, thoughtful recommendations to the County Executive and Council.
- The UCAB provides costs savings to the County because Board/Committee members, with significant breadth of experience in their respective fields of professional knowledge, volunteer their time to discuss issues and provide feedback to the County Executive and Council. Without the benefit of Boards/Committees, this same information would cost the county additional resources by using more staff and/or consultants.
- The UCAB is a well-run, effective board. Attendance continues to be high by board members, community members and county/state officials. Members are recruited to form a diverse representation on the Board and for overall community representation at meetings.
- The UCAB works collaboratively with other regional Boards, commissions and committees to develop partnerships and collaborative solutions to mutual issues and concerns. The proposal to merge or eliminate Boards and Committees is regressive—a step back from good public policy that engages its citizenry in the everyday functioning of the county government.

- The UCAB promotes public service. Participation as a member of a board or committee engages an individual in public service in local government and can provide a ‘training ground’ for individuals who may subsequently progress to serve as county officials or run for political office.
- The UCAB helps county government meet increased demands and expectations for responsiveness and accountability
- The activities of the UCAB can promote a creative dialogue among citizens to bring fresh ideas and innovations to the attention of county leadership.

3. A list of accomplishments from the prior two years; including any direct service provided by volunteers to residents.

The Upcounty Citizen’s Advisory Board has many accomplishments to be proud of. During the past two years:

- Hosted a forum to bring together various civic and assistance-based groups to share ideas for collaboration as demands for those services increased.
- Provided recommendations to the County Executive on matters pertaining to economic development including taking a more aggressive approach to economic development, construction of the CCT, simplifying the development process, and tax breaks for businesses that offer employment potential.
- Continuous support of policies and initiatives that strengthen and preserve the Agricultural Reserve.
- Met with leadership from several homeownership associations to discuss challenges of maintaining safe and attractive communities—in spite of the growing number of homeowners delinquent in association dues and associations without recourse for collecting. The State General Assembly passed Bill 1246 which allows a four-month lien on a property when the house/condo is sold.
- Hosted a forum to bring together community members and local officials to discuss issues related to the Capital Improvement Budget. Following the forum, a letter was drafted to summarize Board and community input and testimony provided at the County Council public hearing.
- Invited and hosted community and civic leaders to a forum to listen to their issues.
- Hosted a public forum on the planning for the county’s Bus Rapid Transit system.
- Pledged to assist the Latino Youth Initiative by hosting a future event for Latinos to become involved in the Gaithersburg East Master Plan process.
- Hosted the County Executive’s Annual Budget Forums.

4. A statistical review of the advisory board member’s workload. Include in the review a list of how many regular and sub-committee meetings are held per month/quarter, and the length of the meetings. In addition, list any other board or sub-committee activities. Finally, include a listing of materials produced by the board, such as research reports, newsletters, etc.

During each of the last three years, the UCAB has held eleven full Board meetings, seven Executive Committee meetings, and eight meetings for each of the two subcommittees (Land Use and Preservation, and Quality of Life). The meetings are fairly consistent in length, beginning at 7 p.m. and concluding between 9:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. The following table summarizes the time commitment by Board members:

	Meetings/year	Time commitment/year
Executive Board member	26	52 hours
Board member (with 100% attendance)	19	38 hours
Board member (with average 80% attendance)	15	30 hours

The chair of each Board also spends approximately 6 hours per year in preparation for meetings, including drafting talking points, researching biographies of speakers, and composing thank you messages after meetings. Each chair also composes 6-7 pieces of correspondence for the County Executive and Council and assembles testimony for two public hearings. Research and writing correspondence and testimony averages 3 hours per event for a total of 25.5 hours.

In addition, the UCAB designates members to serve as liaisons on other Boards. These include the Airpark Liaison Committee (meets quarterly), the Dickerson Facilities Implementation Group (meets twice/year), the Germantown Master Plan Community Advisory Committee (met bi-monthly), the Permitting Services Advisory Committee (meets bi-monthly), the Shady Grove Implementation Advisory Committee (meets quarterly), the Smart Growth Initiative Implementation Advisory Group (meets bi-monthly), the Speed Camera Advisory Committee (meets as scheduled), and the Upcounty Regional Recreation Advisory Board (meets quarterly). Assuming all liaison positions are filled and meetings average 2 hours, a total of 62 hours.

Annually, the Chair will form two temporary committees for the purpose of: 1) nomination of officers, and 2) interviews of potential UCAB members. The total time commitment for members on these sub-committees is approximately 18 hours.

On their own initiative, members also may attend official ceremonies including ground-breakings, openings, ribbon-cutting, dedications and similar events. Most members are also members of other interest boards such as homeowner association, charity, or special interest groups.

The total time commitment of all activities by Board members, at 80% participation and not allowing for events/tasks, totals more than 640 hours per year.

In the past two years, the following document/artifacts have been produced by the UCAB:

- Letter to Council President Nancy Floreen RE: Zoning Text Amendment 10-12, RDT Zone – Child Lot Standards (October 19, 2010)
- Testimony on the Corridor Cities Transitway Project (December 15, 2010)
- Letter to the Reform Commission RE: services provided by the Upcounty Regional Service Center (January 18, 2011)
- Letter to County Executive Isiah Leggett RE: Recommendations on the Capital Budget Amendments (January 18, 2011)
- Letter to County Executive Isiah Leggett RE: Input on economic development (March 1, 2011)

- Testimony on the FY 12 Operating Budget (April 6, 2011)
- 2011 UCAB Annual Report (June 2011)
- Letter to County Executive Isiah Leggett RE: CIP Priorities (August 4, 2011)
- Letter to Council President Valerie Ervin RE: Proposed Youth Curfew bill (October 21, 2011)
- Letter to County Executive Isiah Leggett RE: Nomination of Mr. Linck to Airpark Liaison Committee (December 12, 2011)
- Letter to County Executive Isiah Leggett and Council President Roger Berliner RE: Service changes proposed by MARC (January 3, 2012)
- Testimony on the CIP Budget (February 7, 2012)
- Letter to County Executive Isiah Leggett RE: Comments on the FY 13 Operating Budget (March 7, 2012)
- Testimony on the FY 13 Operating Budget (April 10, 2012)
- Letter to Council President Roger Berliner RE: Proposed emergency transport fee (April 25, 2012)
- Report to the Committee Evaluation and Review Board (May 4, 2012)
- 2012 UCAB Annual Report (June 2012) *(not yet completed)*

5. As done in typical annual reports, provide a 2-year work program outlining planned activities and goals for the future.

The UCAB will continue to focus its work as framed in its charter, focusing on the issues affecting the Upcounty. We have established processes for gathering information on relevant issues that are both timely and substantive. Our work plan includes:

- Continuation of monthly, regularly scheduled meetings (except August).
- Maintain our high level of UCAB member participation.
- Sponsor, conduct outreach, and participate in the County Executive's forums, town hall meetings and other events. This includes a summer forum for CIP issues and a January forum on the operating budget, and others.
- Continue to produce an annual report each June highlighting the activities and accomplishments of the UCAB.
- Make an effort to strengthen the relationship between the UCAB and the Upcounty Youth Advisory committee (YAC).
- Provide more opportunities for minorities to participate in local government through sponsoring outreach and special events.
- Continue to reach out to civic leaders and community members to increase participation in UCAB meetings. To continue to provide ample time on the agenda to involve our guests in the discussion.
- Continue to address issues related to land use and preservation, transportation, and quality of life through our committee and full board meetings.
- Make efforts to provide county leadership with fresh and innovative ideas for moving Montgomery County forward.

6. A description of the amount of County government resources, including County employee staff time, currently being used. Include an outline of a plan to reduce the use of these resources. Note the "staff time" and "resources" includes preparing for and attending meetings, setting up

meeting space, office supplies expended, photocopying, and any other monetary costs for equipment rental, parking, etc.

Like the other Regional Services Directors, the Upcounty Regional Services Director is the primary support staff for the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB). In addition to the work of identifying local service needs, emerging issues, and policy challenges and opportunities; identifying resources to manage issues to resolution where possible; and brokering multi-party partnerships in order to resolve community problems, the Director attends the full Board's and subcommittees' monthly meetings and spends time coordinating logistics, materials and guests for meetings and performing follow-up duties. At the meetings, the Director provides updates on important news, issues, and activities and provides policy reference for the Board's discussions and deliberations. The Director assists the Board officers in finalizing and distributing meeting agendas, conducting research and follow-up related to issues that may involve legislative updates and identified best practices, identifying and recommending guest speakers, and reviewing correspondence. The Director also works closely with the County Executive's office in coordinating recruitment and interviews of Board applicants, and organizing schedules and conducting orientations for new Board members.

Because staff are no longer housed within the regional services office, the Director has assumed additional administrative tasks such as facilitating communications, editing and finalizing documents (agendas, invitations, meeting summaries, annual reports, testimonies, written comments, Board rosters, etc.), providing Board guests with appropriate materials, and maintaining Board business records.

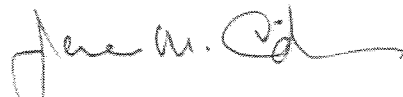
The Board officers continue to provide their assistance when possible (i.e. preparing meeting space), but it is limited due to their time available and their unfamiliarity with county processes. Therefore, it is estimated that the Upcounty Regional Services Director spends an average of 20-25 hours per month on Board-related work. The new Community Engagement Cluster's Business Management Team provides a couple of hours per month of assistance with some logistical tasks.

Given the nature of the work of the UCAB, other County staff, including County Council staff, attend many UCAB meetings in order to provide the Board with information and the benefit of their experience and expertise.

The Board and the Regional Services Director continue to look for ways to reduce costs related to supplies and photocopying.

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board appreciates the opportunity to provide input for the Committee Evaluation and Review Board's report. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Juan M. Cardenas", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Juan Cardenas
Chair



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

October 19, 2010

Nancy Floreen, President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: Zoning Text Amendment 10-12, RDT Zone –
Child Lot Standards

Dear Ms. Floreen:

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board has reviewed Zoning Text Amendment 10-12, RDT Zone – Child Lot Standards and herein submits the following comments on the amendment. The Board requests that the Council members consider these comments as part of its deliberation with respect to the amendment.

The Board submits that the amendment should be adopted with the exception of certain language contained in Section 59-C-9.41. In the Board's view, the amendment constitutes appropriate and necessary clarification of existing rules with respect to Child Lots in Rural Density Transfer Zones and is designed to promote agriculture as the primary land use in those sections of Montgomery County that have been designated for agricultural preservation.

The Board's one concern is with Section 59-C-9.41. In that regard, the Board agrees with the September 14, 2010 comments of the Montgomery County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board ("APAB") to the effect that language in this section of the amendment will run counter to the stated purpose of the amendment by unnecessarily harming the future viability of agricultural operations and by establishing a standard requiring the retention of a transferable density right ("TDR") for farm tenant dwellings as well as child lots. Farm tenant dwellings are generally small homes or mobile homes which are frequently used by seasonal workers.

As the APAB aptly pointed out in its comments, it is often necessary for farmers performing agricultural services to provide tenant housing associated with on-farm local food production. In the current economic environment, many farms do not have retained TDRs and this circumstance enables farmers to request and obtain tenant housing. If a TDR is required for each tenant dwelling, it would inappropriately limit the future flexibility of agricultural operations in the Agricultural Reserve and thereby act to the detriment of preserved county farms.

In sum, the Board supports the adoption of Zoning Text Amendment 10-12 on Child Lot standards so long as the proposed changes to this amendment are adopted¹. The Board thanks the County Council for its consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Joel M. Cockrell
Chair

cc: Isiah Leggett

¹ The Board understands that the PHED Committee reviewed ZTA 10-12 and that the staff report to the Committee indicated that the objectionable language was akin to a scrivener's error. We urge the Council to reach the same conclusion, and remove the objectionable language from the proposed Zoning Text Amendment.



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Testimony on the Corridor Cities Transitway Project December 15, 2010

Good evening, my name is Joel Cockrell and I am the Chair of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board for the 2010-2011 year. The Board is composed of 20 residents from the various communities that comprise the Upcounty or the northern half of the county. We are nominated by the Executive and confirmed by the County Council. The Board works in close proximity with the staff of the Regional Services Center in Germantown.

The Upcounty Board has supported the Corridor Cities Transitway since the introduction of the project though we have not taken a specific position on whether the mode of service should be bus rapid transit or light rail. Many parts of the Upcounty are different from the remainder of Montgomery County since, at present, we are far more reliant on the automobile for transportation due to the limited reach of public transportation. Metro stops at Shady Grove Road. The MARC train system, which I use for commuting purposes, largely runs only during morning and evening rush hours and is susceptible to delays for CSX freight trains. Bus service has improved but is nonetheless limited in some areas. For example, in Damascus, where I live, we are served by only the #90 bus.

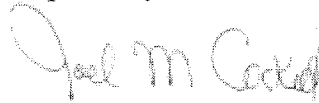
As the November 2009 study performed by the Maryland Transit Administration with the support of the State Highway Administration provides, the alignment for this system has been a part of the County's planning goals since the 1980s. This 14 mile transitway is designed to link the Shady Grove metro station with the communities of Gaithersburg, Germantown and Clarksburg and relieve traffic congestion on I-270. In the past few years, the Montgomery County Planning Board and the County Council debated whether to modify the former Gaithersburg West Master Plan with respect to several residential and business/commercial developments such as the Kentlands commercial development, the Crown Farm property and most of all, the Life Sciences Center. These changes are now known as the Greater Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan. To accommodate these critically important developments, proposals were made to realign to CCT so that stations would be located in easy walking distance of these work and home destinations.

This revised CCT alignment was first analyzed in the November 2009 study. The MTA found that routing the CCT closer to Kentlands, Crown Farm and the Life Sciences Center would draw as many as 42,000 daily boarders, making either light rail or rapid bus service eligible for federal financial support. Then, on May 4, 2010, the County Council unanimously approved the Greater Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan. In that new plan, the Council held that the CCT is the centerpiece for the plan's vision for the Life Sciences Center. It further stated that the CCT will enable people who work in the Life Sciences Center to live in nearby communities connected by transit.

And, now on November 30 of this year, the Supplemental Environmental Assessment required by the proposed CCT re-alignment has found that there will be little adverse consequences from this change.

At bottom, the CCT is a win-win project for all concerned. There is virtually no opposition to this plan. It is our understanding that the Governor will select a preferred alignment, and perhaps the mode of travel (light rail or rapid bus), in the early months of 2011. Then, where do we go next? Should this project stand in line behind the Baltimore Rail System and the Purple Line, both far more controversial proposals, simply because those plans got there earlier? We think not. This plan is ready to go once the Governor makes his decision. The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board strongly urges the Governor, the MTA, and county officials to: a) support the re-alignment that serves the Life Sciences Center, the Crown Farm and the Kentlands; and b) move forward expeditiously. The Greater Seneca Science Corridor Plan is a key basis for planned development in this County. The CCT is the linchpin for that plan. If the CCT doesn't get built, neither does Science City. We cannot allow that circumstance to happen.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joel M. Cockrell", written in a cursive style.

Joel Cockrell
Chair



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

January 18, 2011

Dear Reform Commission Members:

I am the 2010-2011 Chair of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board, known as UCAB. We are a group of 20 individuals from the various jurisdictions that comprise the Upcounty who are appointed by the County Executive and approved by the Council. We hold monthly meetings in both full board and committee sessions with our two committees addressing "Land Use & Preservation," and "Quality of Life." UCAB members work closely with the Director and the other employees of the Upcounty Regional Service Center to identify issues affecting the northern half of the county, to formulate positions with respect to those issues, and to frame recommendations. We advance our positions on those issues in written submissions and oral presentations to both the County Executive and the County Council.

The Board urges the Reform Commission to recommend that the footprint of the five Regional Service Centers in Montgomery County be maintained at both its current staff size and current scope of mission. As you certainly are aware, the budget cuts for fiscal year 2011 resulted in a significant decrease in the size of the staff at all five Regional Service Centers in the county as well as a substantial narrowing of the mission of the Service Centers. Proposals to further decrease or even eliminate the Service Centers altogether, should be rejected as wholly inappropriate. In times of economic hardship, more and more citizens of the county must, of necessity, rely on governmental assistance of all kinds. Having county government employees at nearby locations will provide reassurance to all citizens that their needs will not fall through the cracks.

The Director of the Upcounty Regional Service Center and her staff manage issues affecting neighborhoods and groups in the northern part of the county as well as service delivery at the government facility located in Germantown. In the last year, numerous services such as the Department of Recreation have removed their footprint from the Upcounty due to the centralization of many county government functions. The Director and her staff have overseen a complete renovation of the first floor of the building to accommodate new government tenants and, despite the County's current centralization approach, have actually introduced new services to the numerous communities that comprise the Upcounty. Those services include:

- MontgomeryWorks – a workforce development program of the Department of Economic Development
- The Gilchrist Center for Cultural Diversity – a welcome center for new county residents
- Housing Counseling/Foreclosure Prevention – a partnership program of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, and the Housing Initiative Partnership
- The Office of Human Resources Training – a variety of training opportunities for County Government employees

Beyond the renovation of the building and the introduction of new services to the Upcounty, the Director of the Regional Service Center and her staff have been instrumental in initiating and/or facilitating numerous other issues that concern the Upcounty. For example, the Director and her Staff have:

- Overseen a successful facilitation and negotiation among the Department of Transportation, the Montgomery Village Foundation and a local developer to find a location for an upgraded transit center in Montgomery Village
- Partnered with Roberto Clemente Middle School, the Collaboration Council, and the Department of Recreation to develop a summer youth program for middle school youth
- Successfully negotiated with a local developer, Transit Services, and the Police Department to have surveillance cameras installed at the Germantown Transit Center in Germantown town center
- Successfully negotiated a partnership between Montgomery County Public Libraries, Lakeforest Mall and the City of Gaithersburg to establish interim library services in the mall during the renovation of the Gaithersburg Library
- Identified and secured the support of a Germantown business condominium association to assist the Police Department in a special operation of national scope
- Worked to assure concerned residents that all requirements had been met by a new faith congregation building a temple in the community. The Director convened a discussion of residents, the civic association leadership, and the various agencies with regulatory authority to explain the multi-agency process, information accessibility, and opportunities for public comment. The civic association was also encouraged to engage formally with the new congregation's representatives with the hopes of fostering a neighborly relationship.

The recent important and innovative work performed by the Director and Staff of the Upcounty Regional Services Center, identified above, barely scratches the surface of the vital importance of this team of workers. The Director and her Staff serve as critical liaisons to the many home owners' associations and civic groups in the upcounty. In many ways, they serve as troubleshooters, seeking to resolve a myriad of issues that vary greatly from day to day.

Similarly, the five Regional Service Centers in the county facilitate the work of the five Citizens' Advisory Boards. UCAB and its sister boards simply cannot exist without the hard work of the Regional Service Center directors and staff. This county has historically stressed the importance of citizen input into local government. That input will be greatly diminished if any more cuts are imposed on either the staff or the mission of the Regional Service Centers. Thus, the input of the recreation advisory boards had been impaired by the centralization of that department.

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board urges the Reform Commission to recommend that the staffing and the mission of the Regional Service Centers in the county be maintained at current levels. This important link between citizens and government must not be further diminished.

Sincerely,



Joel M. Cockrell
Chair



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

January 18, 2011

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board herein comments on the Capital Budget to be adopted by Montgomery County for fiscal year 2012. The Board would like to thank you and the County Council for moving forward with the long-planned and long-needed renovation of the Gaithersburg Library. We also appreciate the fact that the County has opened an interim library for Gaithersburg at Lake Forest Mall. The Board urges the County to maintain its present schedule for completion of the library renovation.

At the same time, the Board requests that the County move forward on the current schedule with three projects that are presently in the facility planning or design stage.

- The first project is the North Potomac recreation center. This project has been delayed for a significant amount of time due to a problem with the acquisition of a particular parcel of land. Now that this acquisition problem has been resolved, the Board hopes that actual construction of this needed facility can commence in the near future.
- The second project in the facility planning or design stage that should also progress according to schedule is the Travilah Fire Station. The construction of the Travilah Station is needed as an integral part of the infrastructure of the Greater Seneca Science Corridor.
- The third project in the facility planning or design stage that should progress according to schedule is the Clarksburg Fire Station. Completion of a permanent fire station in Clarksburg is needed given the rapid growth of population in that suburb.

Three other upcounty projects that are in the planning stage should continue to be developed.

- The Shady Grove Library
- The Shady Grove Fire Station
- The Clarksburg Library

Given the tight economic times, use of the county's libraries has significantly increased. Construction of these two new libraries will expand service to constituents in these two areas that cannot access existing locations. Similarly, continued planning and the ultimate construction of a new fire station in the Shady Grove area is necessary if the county wishes to continue with its important campaign to lower the time to respond to emergency calls.

The Board recognizes the substantial budgetary constraints that the county is facing. Therefore, it is not proposing the initiation of any new capital projects. Instead, the Board urges the County to maintain existing capital projects at the same pace as set forth in the current planning, design and construction schedules that exist for each project.

Sincerely,

Joel Cockrell
Chair



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

March 1, 2011

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
County Executive
Montgomery County Government
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) would like to congratulate you on your recent victory in the November 2, 2010, election. As you are aware, the state of the Montgomery County economy was of concern by many voters. We know that this is a complicated issue and would like to provide input on one key component, economic development.

Our Board has been fortunate to have received briefings from the Department of Economic Development, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), and the Gaithersburg-Germantown and Poolesville Chambers of Commerce. The following information was provided:

- Businesses are hesitant to take risks (expansion) in the current economy.
- The Department of Economic Development is focused on retaining the established businesses and government institutions as the foundation for stable economic development.
- The upcounty region faces strong economic development competition from other counties, primarily Frederick County.
- The regulatory process in Montgomery County for the approval of new businesses and business expansions is considered time-consuming and cumbersome.
- Transportation and housing issues often work against Montgomery County in its competition for business with surrounding jurisdictions.
- There is presently little coordination between Montgomery County, Frederick County, Howard County and Carroll County with respect to development and transportation issues.
- The M-NCPPC has undergone a significant reorganization to function with fewer staff and is in the process of a major zoning re-write to simplify code.

Based on this information and input from the community, the UCAB would like to make the following recommendations:


- The Department of Economic Development must take an aggressive approach towards planned economic development in the upcounty. Major transportation projects such as the Intercounty Connector should be highlighted as an advantage for business.
- We believe that tax breaks for business that offer employment potential may be more than offset by additional revenue received from income taxes on employees.

- The CCT must be built as soon as possible. Subsequent to the CCT, an enhanced bus feeder system should be considered.
- Effort must be made to simplify the development application process for businesses. It is understood that events in the Clarksburg development encouraged stringent oversight; however, the process can be reformed while maintaining proper control.
- Improve communication among officials in Montgomery, Howard, Frederick, and Carroll counties in regard to projects that will have an impact (economic, transportation, or other) on a neighboring county.
- The Department of Economic Development should intensify their efforts to provide leadership and coordination of various stakeholders, such as chambers of commerce, realtors, and educational institutions in Montgomery County.

The members of the UCAB will continue to assist you and work collaboratively to make sure that Montgomery County continues to be a highly desirable and livable community. We look forward to receiving your input and/or ideas related to our recommendations.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Joel M. Cockrell
Chair

Cc: Ms. Carrier
Mr. Silverman



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Testimony on the FY12 Operating Budget April 6, 2011

President Ervin, Members of the County Council:

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board recognizes the significant fiscal challenges the County faces as the Executive and the Council attempt to close the \$300 million projected budget gap. UCAB is generally supportive of the proposed budget, but we set forth the following recommendations:

1. We are concerned about the proposal to place the Regional Service Centers under the new Office of Community Engagement. If the Council accepts that proposal, it should ensure sufficient staffing to enable the Regional Service Centers to perform their vitally important functions. In that regard, the Council should consider decentralizing all of the groups that will make up this new office so that the public can be engaged on a regional basis.
2. Reconsider the proposed level of cuts for fire and rescue services.
3. We understand that an increase in the alcohol tax has passed the state senate. Take all steps to ensure that this legislation is passed and signed into law.
4. Reconsider the elimination of afterschool programs given their low cost and effective support for communities.
5. Ensure that seniors and citizens in need do not fall below the safety net level. In that regard, reexamine the proposed cuts for Health and Human Services.
6. Given the budget cuts for libraries and recreation facilities, ensure that operating hours and staffing are sufficient to satisfy the needs of the County's residents.
7. Explore opportunities for the county to leverage its lands to generate revenues, *i.e.*, land leases to non-profits.
8. Make no decision that adversely affects the Agricultural Reserve.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Cockrell
Chair



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

August 4, 2011

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

The Upcounty County Citizen's Advisory Board held its Capital Budget Forum on July 13, 2011 for the purpose of receiving input for the FY 2013–18 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The forum was well attended by residents and representatives of various county agencies. We also received public comments via mail and e-mail. Based on the information we have received, we submit the following recommendations for your consideration.

Transportation and Infrastructure

- Further study of the Mid-County Corridor is recommended —this is an issue in which the community has not reached a consensus on a final plan. Of the several alternatives currently under study there is significant opposition to Alternative 4, citing the impact on current residents, environmental and historical repercussion and higher cost. Residents of Montgomery Village support no build, travel demand management, or MD 355 options. Clarksburg residents are eager for an alternative to the congested routes currently available.
- Residents of the upcounty are almost in complete agreement for moving ahead with the planned Corridor Cities Transitway. There is still no consensus as to light rail or rapid bus transit or other means, only that the CCT needs to move ahead.
- Improvements should be made to the bike, pedestrian and vehicular access to the Boyds MARC station to enhance safety and facilitate passenger access.
- Improvements should be made to Stringtown Road. Funds have been allocated for the design study which was scheduled to begin in July. Recommendations from the study, especially those that will improve safety, should be brought forward for construction funding.
- Maintaining funding in the Snouffer School Road area to accommodate the planned county service facilities relocating to the Webb tract is recommended.
- Upgrades to the County's traffic management system to ensure that technology is optimized and functions are made in a timely manner are recommended.

Public Safety

- The citizens of the upcounty are extremely grateful for the two new fire stations in Germantown and the temporary station has provided much needed service to Clarksburg. As soon as funding becomes available, the permanent Clarksburg Fire station should be built and operations relocated from the leased space to the permanent site.
- Continuation of support for the construction of a new 6th district police station in the upcounty (along with the extension of Watkins Mill Road) is recommended.

Schools

- Excellent public schools are a hallmark of our county and our public schools' national reputation continues to be a primary motivating factor for young families and businesses moving into our community. In that context, we urge you to support the modernization of our public school facilities by working collaboratively with the Board of Education to undertake capital projects that will maintain the quality of our schools. As an area of strong population growth, the upcounty will require a new middle school (Arora Hills) and other expansion/modernization projects soon.

Libraries

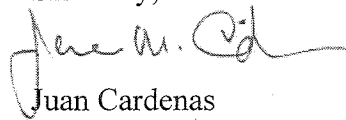
- It is our understanding that delays caused by storm water issues and permits have been resolved and that construction of the Gaithersburg Library can proceed. Residents eagerly hope a builder is selected in August and that construction begins in September. Although a significant effort, the temporary library does not provide all the library resources needed. UCAB recommends moving quickly to complete this project.
- The Clarksburg library is one of six in the CIP. It is strongly encouraged that by 2015 there will be an appropriation for the Clarksburg Library.

Parks and Recreation

- Continuation of funding for the Germantown Town Center Urban Park and the Darnestown Square Heritage Park is needed in order to maintain the current schedules.
- Funding for design and construction of the Magruder Trail from Damascus Recreational Park to the Damascus town center is supported.
- Timely development of the Seneca Crossing Park on the 26 acres donated to the county for that purpose is strongly recommended.

The Upcounty Citizen's Advisory Board and the citizens of the upcounty region appreciate the opportunity to offer these recommendations. I look forward to meeting with you on August 23.

Sincerely,



Juan Cardenas
Chair



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

October 21, 2011

The Honorable Valerie Ervin, President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Ms. Ervin:

I am writing on behalf of the Upcounty Citizen's Advisory Board (UCAB) regarding the County Executive Leggett's proposed Bill 25-11, which would establish a youth curfew in Montgomery County. Following a lengthy discussion spanning three meetings, the UCAB has voted to support the bill (by a vote of six to five) as written with current amendments.

The debate on both sides was open, knowledgeable, supported by research and facts, and sometimes emotional. Clearly, the bill contains provisions which will help deter juveniles from both committing crimes and being victims of crimes during the proposed curfew hours. The primary benefits of the bill include:

- It provides law enforcement officials with an additional tool to prevent crimes involving juveniles less than 18 years of age.
- The bill will detract juveniles from engaging in gang activity.
- By restricting hours that young people will be out in public, it will prevent minors from becoming victims of crimes.
- Applying a curfew reduces the incidence of minors from neighboring jurisdictions crossing into Montgomery County to avoid curfews where they live.
- Parental authority will be enhanced since parents will have justification for setting household limits on when a teen or pre-teen has to be home.
- A curfew is an attractive crime deterrent because there will be a negligible budgetary cost effect.
- Because of the high degree of training and professional experience by our Montgomery County Police Officers, the UCAB is confident that profiling of certain youth will not be an issue.

The concerns of the individuals opposed to the bill include the following:

- There is little evidence of a widespread problem.
- The proposed bill, if passed as written, may likely be challenged in court.

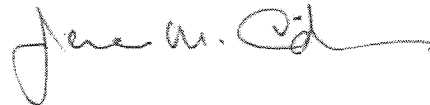
- There is no explicit mention of parental notification in the bill.
- There are too many exceptions in the bill, both in terms of acceptable activities wherein the curfew would not be invoked and actual jurisdictions where the bill would not apply at all.

During the discussion, various individuals submitted additional items for consideration. These included:

- A current assessment of juvenile crime/and crimes involving juveniles as victims should be provided with actual data along with projections/targets of crime reduction after implementation of the curfew.
- The county may want to consider a sunset date for the curfew some two or three years out from the date of initial implementation.
- A stronger curfew law containing fewer exceptions should be considered.
- Funding should be approved to conduct a multi-language awareness campaign.
- Clarify the impact on non-resident juveniles.
- Continue to pursue initiatives like the grant to acquire surveillance cameras for hot spots.
- Whenever possible pursue opportunities for positive youth development activities and include those activities within the curfew exemptions to encourage participation by juveniles.
- A process should be developed to expeditiously adjudicate complaints lodged under a curfew law.

As an advisory board, we appreciate the opportunity to provide input on matters under consideration before the County Council. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Juan Cardenas
Chair

Copy to: Mr. Leggett, County Executive



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

December 12, 2011

The Honorable Roger Berliner, President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

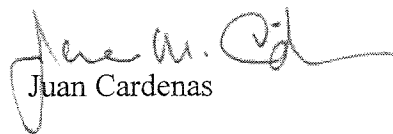
Dear Mr. Berliner:

I would like to take an opportunity to nominate Mr. Kevin Linck for appointment as the Upcounty Citizen's Advisory Board (UCAB) member liaison to the Montgomery County Airpark Liaison Committee. As the chair of the UCAB for 2011-2012, I have known Mr. Linck for approximately one year and feel that he is a deserving candidate for your consideration.

Mr. Linck joined the UCAB and quickly assumed an invaluable role as a representative for his community in Montgomery Village. He has demonstrated considerable dedication to our upcounty region as a whole. On his own initiative, he has taken time to attend a couple of the Montgomery Airpark Liaison Committee meetings to become more knowledgeable about this important transportation resource in the upcounty.

I believe Mr. Linck exhibits many of the qualities that are essential to be an effective liaison for our UCAB. In addition, I believe he will be an asset to the Committee as they conduct their business. I highly recommend Mr. Linck and hope that you will favorably consider this request.

Sincerely,


Juan Cardenas

Copy to:
Isiah Leggett
Kevin Linck
Jeffrey Zyontz



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

January 3, 2012

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

The Honorable Roger Berliner, President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett and Mr. Berliner:

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) would like to take the opportunity to express support for delaying implementation of the service changes proposed by the Maryland Transit Authority (MTA) in December 2011, to the MARC Brunswick line with a target date of January 30, 2012. The UCAB has not had the opportunity to formally take a position on the request for delaying the proposed changes; however, given the very short window before the only town hall meeting in Montgomery County to discuss the change, and that there is strong evidence the UCAB members support a delay, I feel confident the Board will recommend suspension of the new schedule until MTA is able to gather and process more stakeholder input.

We understand that the proposed schedule change is an attempt to improve service. Our primary concern is that service is improved for some MARC riders but at the expense of riders using Montgomery County stations. Under the proposed schedule Metropolitan Grove will lose two morning trains and one evening train. Passengers using the Boyds, Gaithersburg, and Washington Grove stations will also lose one train each. We feel that MTA is making an effort to hold informal town hall and 'meet the management' events, but these dates are too close to the planned date for the new service schedule and will not allow enough time for decision makers to assess input from the ridership and other affected stakeholders.

The UCAB has also noted the MARC Riders Advisory Council decision to support delay of the proposed Brunswick line schedule changes and feel that some of the general grounds for opposition stated in their December 6, 2011, letter to the Maryland and West Virginia Department of Transportation, should be entitled to additional consideration.

We thank you for your continued support for Montgomery County and in particular the residents of the Upcounty region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Juan A. Cardenas", is written over a horizontal line.

Juan Cardenas, Chair
Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board

Upcounty Citizen's Advisory Board
Testimony for the County Council on the FY 13 CIP Budget
February 7, 2012

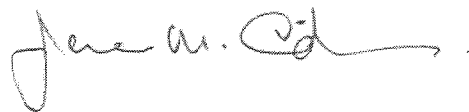
Good evening Council President Berliner, Vice President Navarro and council. For the record, my name is Juan Cardenas and I am the chair of the Upcounty Citizen's Advisory Board. We thank you for allowing us to provide tonight's testimony on behalf of the 300,000 citizens residing in the upcounty region.

We applaud the county executive's efforts to reduce the level of new obligation debt—debt service currently eats more than \$290 million of the operating budget. We feel it is important to hold the line on spending to maintain our county's excellent credit rating.

Our advice is shaped by the citizens who attend our meetings and by the neighbors in our communities.

- Our priorities include transportation and infrastructure projects including the Corridor Cities Transitway, improvements to Stringtown Road, Clarksburg Transportation Connections project, and Snouffer School Road near the Webb tract
- We have for several years recommended the upgrade of the traffic management system and now see that this project is entering its final phase. We push this project because we believe that it is more important than any road we could build. All you have to do is remember when the system malfunctioned in 2009
- We recommend the improvements in and around Montgomery College Germantown related to science and technology education and job training. With the new hospital, Germantown is poised to bring a hub of economic activity for the county;
- Funding of the new upcounty elementary school and several school modernization projects and maintaining critical school infrastructure—including HVAC replacement and PLAR (Planned Life-Cycle Asset Replacement) efforts;

- High School Wellness centers at Gaithersburg and Watkins Mill High schools.
- Despite the economic challenge, Montgomery County has not backed down from making improvements in the community. The groundbreaking ceremonies at Plum Gar recreation center and the Gaithersburg Library are testaments to the executive and council's commitment to the upcounty—we want to see these projects through as well as design plans for Little Bennett Regional, Seneca Crossing, and Germantown Town Center Urban parks. We understand the need to delay the Clarksburg Library, but please don't forget about it—we will remind you next year.
- We are pleased with the project for sidewalks needed in Hyattstown and sewer lines for the Clarksburg Historic District.
- In closing, I know we are asking a lot but we have one more item for you to consider—we are willing to wait until the time is right for funding the permanent 6th District Police station. We understand that District 2 and 3 have needs that are more urgent. We would like you to consider adding police officers in the operating budget. That along with working with the state on plans for the Watkins Mill extended 270 overpass.
- Thank you for your service to the residents of Montgomery County.



Juan Cardenas
Chair



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

The Upcounty County Citizen's Advisory Board was pleased to host your Upcounty Annual Budget Forum held at the Black Rock Center for the Arts on January 23, 2012. The forums are an excellent venue for receiving input for the FY 2013 from residents. This year's forum was well attended and representatives of various county agencies were on hand to provide additional information.

We support your idea to "do as little harm as possible" to services that have already been impacted by the budget challenges in recent years. Public schools, public safety, libraries, and services for the most vulnerable should be funding priorities. Other county services, including recreation, parks, general services, and housing that are aligned with your priority policy objectives are also important and are often interlinked with other services to provide a comprehensive umbrella for county citizens and should be funded to the extent possible.

It is hoped that the county's continued efforts to develop long-term savings based on the focus on productivity and performance of services and by continuing with plans to reduce the pressure of the capital budget payment obligations on the operating budget are successful. Based on the information we received from our regular meetings and the budget forum, we submit the following recommendations for your consideration.

Regional Service Centers

We support providing sufficient staff for the regional service centers to handle the critical service they provide to the community. The Upcounty Regional Service Center serves the largest geographical area and a large portion of the county's increasingly diverse population. The center continues to provide support for community issues in Clarksburg, Germantown, and Poolesville and many other communities, maintaining key government partnerships with both business and non-profit organizations, and providing assistance to residents.

Public Safety

The UCAB supports, to the extent possible, the addition of officers for the police department. The citizens enjoy safe and secure neighborhoods due to the high-quality police officers we currently have, but with increase in population and other social and economic pressures, we will need more officers to maintain that level of service.

Public Libraries

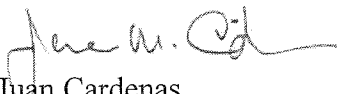
Perhaps no group has been more vocal than the citizens who advocate for the libraries. In this age of new technology growth, the libraries are refocusing services to meet the needs of citizens, providing computer work stations, e-book readers, and access to electronic databases. We support these efforts, noting that libraries are community cultural centers and open doors to education and entertainment for citizens and we are confident that the county will do so in an effective yet financially responsible way.

All Services

We realize the tremendous sacrifice made by all county employees, including those of the school system and Montgomery College, to help balance the budget by forgoing COLAs and step increases. Holding the line on compensation also contributed to the level of sustainability in the budget we have today. Employees need to be recognized for their dedication and commitment to serving the diverse citizens of Montgomery County.

The Upcounty Citizen's Advisory Board and the citizens of the Upcounty region appreciate the opportunity to offer these recommendations.

Sincerely,



Juan Cardenas

County Council FY 2013 Budget Public Hearing Testimony
Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board

April 10, 2012

Good evening Council President Berliner and Councilmembers,

My name is Juan Cardenas, and as Chair of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board, I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the FY 13 operating budget on behalf of the 300,000 upcounty citizens.

It is our belief that the Executive and Council have taken on the task of guiding us through the tough economy and should be commended for choosing a long-range view to address the imbalance of revenues and expenses. We also firmly believe that we are not out of the woods yet. There is growth in the economy but worry about rising fuel and food costs. The budget passed last night in Annapolis presents a challenge. Given these concerns, a path of modest improvements, efforts to find cost savings, and reducing the capital budget and impact of the debt service, is advised.

With lively input and discussion from our friends, neighbors, and citizens, we endorse the plan presented by the County Executive. I would like to highlight the priorities and themes which we believe will help us continue to maintain our county as the best place to live.

Public Safety—we have a great deal of praise for Chief Manger and the exceptional men and women who make up our police force. In spite of economic challenges, they have found a way to decrease crime in the county. We must do our part to continue to target hot spots by providing additional patrol officers and investigators. Along the same lines, Chief Bowers needs additional fire and rescue resources to fill posts and reduce overtime.

Schools—both MCPS and Montgomery College have done their part to get us through a difficult time. Fully funding requests is not throwing away money—but we do ask that you work closely with both agencies to help uncover accountability processes already in place and find new ones if needed.

It is not on the Executive's list but we believe the Regional Services Centers need consideration. Staffing at the Upcounty Center has gone from 7 to 6 to 3 and now one. That one person has central administrative support but no "boots on the ground." Residents continue to seek assistance for all kinds of matters and just the addition of one more full-time position would greatly help.

Recognizing our dedicated employees—for three years, our county government and school employees have shouldered the brunt of reductions by forgoing raises. We need to find a meaningful, yet responsible way to show our gratitude for their dedication and service.

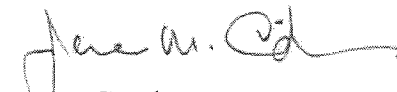
Items that also deserve full funding—libraries, positive youth development, and vital living for seniors.

Paying for these items requires revenue. We expect a comparable tax rate with our neighboring jurisdictions. As mentioned at the beginning, our citizens ask for: continued costs savings, including long-term strategies for pension sustainability; consolidation of services where effective; better accountability through CountyStat and information from schools; and exploring innovative methods of providing services.

Yours is not an easy job. We will do our part to help.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Juan M. Cardenas", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Juan Cardenas
Chair



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

April 25, 2012

The Honorable Roger Berliner, President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Berliner:

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) held a joint Land Use and Quality of Life committee meeting on April 23, 2012, during which a public discussion was held on the proposed Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement Act. The advisory board members heard from representatives both for and against the proposal. Both sides presented formidable arguments. After deliberation, the UCAB voted 6 to 5, with 2 abstaining, in favor of supporting the proposed Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement Act.

The majority cited the need to help raise revenue to offset potential shifting of teacher pension responsibilities and the unfavorable effects of the Maryland legislature's "Doomsday" budget. It was acknowledged that most, if not all, of the surrounding jurisdictions also have similar legislation in place and it would be a missed opportunity by 'leaving money on the table'.

The minority cited the 2010 election in which the voters rejected the Ambulance Fee and the divisive nature of the issue—one that cuts a deeper wedge between career fire fighters and the volunteers.

We realize that this is difficult situation for both County Executive Leggett and the County Council and we thank you for your continued support for Montgomery County and in particular the residents of the Upcounty region.

Sincerely,

Juan Cardenas, Chair
Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Isiah Leggett